

2-06-2024

Esteemed LCPR Committee,

My name is Lisa Yoerg and I teach first grade in the Sauk Rapids-Rice school district. I am writing this letter to express my deep concerns over the unfair pension that currently exists in our state TRA program. I began my teaching career in the fall of 1989. After this current year I will have 28 years of teaching under my belt and will turn 58 this August. If I would have been hired a few months earlier, I would have been one of the very fortunate ones to have been a Tier 1 employee and qualify under the Rule of 90. The fact that I have for 28 years funded and will continue to fund the pensions for Tier 1 employees is very unfair. I am being forced to make up the deficit and mismanagement of the program to fund Tier 1's retirement program.

I started teaching the same year as a co-worker who happened to get credit for 3 days of subbing the spring before we both got hired. This co-worker qualifies under Tier 1 and is now able to retire with full benefits under the Rule of 90. We both contributed every year of our service to the TRA pension program and yet our benefits are vastly different as I will now be required to work another 10 years for the same retirement benefits. This has been a devastating reality and I know I am not alone with this predicament.

I have put my heart and soul into this profession for nearly three decades, but to be expected to teach for 40 years is something well above and beyond what is expected of teachers around the country. Teaching is a very rewarding and honorable profession but until this pension debacle gets fixed, I would discourage young people from choosing a career in Minnesota public education.

My request is for a fair and equitable pension for Tier 2 educators across the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,,

Lisa Yoerg  
MN ISD 47  
27+ year educator